



DELAINE EASTIN

State Superintendent of Public Instruction

June 16, 2000

Dear County and District Superintendents and Principals:

ROSS-Certified Outdoor Science Schools

On October 10, 1999, the Governor signed Assembly Bill 1498 (enclosed) to appropriate \$1,500,000 on a one-time basis to school districts and county offices of education that operate Residential Outdoor Science Schools (ROSS)-certified programs (via trailer bill 78, Statutes of 1999, Section 65aa). The allocation will be based on an amount of up to \$10 per eligible participating pupil multiplied by the number of participating days, up to a maximum of five days.

I encourage district and county superintendents to notify prospective schools serving economically disadvantaged students eligible for this one-time opportunity since it partially subsidizes the costs of fifth and sixth grade students from low-income families to attend residential outdoor science schools. These funds will only be reimbursed to school districts and county offices of education whose students have already attended an outdoor science school and meet the following criteria: (1) the students attended a school currently certified with the California Department of Education as having met the standards of the ROSS Guide; (2) the pupils served were enrolled in a public school at either the fifth or sixth grade between January 1, 2000 and June 30, 2000; (3) the pupils participated in a minimum four day, three night program and; (4) the pupils are economically disadvantaged and meets the criteria of Section 49552 of the California Education Code.

In the attached packet, you will find information regarding the allocation of these funds, including an application, report form, and a question and answer page. For information on AB 1498 please see our web site at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/shsd/outdoorscience.html>. To receive these funds, your local education agency must complete the attached application form, return it with a postmark no later than August 31, 2000, and send to the Academic Standards and Resources Unit, 660 J Street, Room 300, Sacramento, CA 95814, Attn: Cindi Cereceres-Anderson. Any outdoor science school waiting for certification should be advised that they will only be eligible for reimbursement for the actual number of pupil-days of service provided following written notification from the President of the California Outdoor School Administrators that they have met the standards of the ROSS Guide.

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If you have any questions or comments about the AB 1498 reimbursement process, please contact Cindi Cereceres-Anderson in the Academic Standards and Resources Unit at (916) 445-5727. If you have questions or comments about the statewide program, please call Bill Andrews in the Office of Environmental Education at (916) 322-9503.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Delaine Eastin". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

DELAINE EASTIN
State Superintendent of Public Instruction

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Enclosures: Application/Reporting form
 Questions and Answers